

The invention is claimed as:

1. A nut member configured to be engaged within a cage member and configured to receive a fastener, said nut member comprising:

5 a base portion having an upper surface, a lower surface, and sidewalls which connect said upper surface to said lower surface, said base portion further having at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said lower surface thereof, said base portion having an aperture which extends therethrough for receiving the fastener.

10 2. A nut member as defined in claim 1, wherein said base portion has four protrusions extending from said lower surface thereof.

3. A nut member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is provided at a corner of said lower surface where at least one of said sidewalls meets at said lower
15 surface.

4. A nut member as defined in claim 3, wherein said base portion has four sidewalls to define four corners of said lower surface, and four protrusions extending from said lower surface such that each protrusion extends from one of said four corners of said lower surface.

20 5. A nut member as defined in claim 3, wherein said at least one protrusion extends to a point.

6. A nut member as defined in claim 3, wherein said at least one protrusion is in the

form of a tetrahedron.

7. A nut member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion extends at least a portion of a distance between said aperture and a corner of said lower surface where two of said sidewalls meet at said lower surface.

8. A nut member as defined in claim 7, wherein said base portion has four sidewalls to define four corners of said lower surface, and four protrusions extending from said lower surface such that each protrusion extends at least a portion of a distance between said aperture and one of said four corners of said lower surface.

9. A nut member as defined in claim 7, wherein said at least one protrusion extends to a tangential point thereof.

10. A nut member as defined in claim 7, wherein said at least one protrusion is in the form of a rounded bead.

11. A nut member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is configured to allow for a reduced amount of bearing surface interface between said nut member and the cage member.

12. A nut member as defined in claim 1, further comprising a cylindrical portion extending from said upper surface of said base portion.

13. A nut member as defined in claim 12, wherein said aperture of said base portion extends into said cylindrical portion.

14. An assembly configured to receive a fastener, said assembly comprising:

5 a nut member having a base portion having an upper surface, a lower surface, and sidewalls which connect said upper surface to said lower surface, said base portion further having at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said lower surface thereof, said base portion having an aperture which extends therethrough for receiving the fastener; and

means for encaging said nut member, said encaging means configured to provide a
10 limited range of movement of said nut member in at least one dimension, said encaging means configured to allow access to said aperture of said nut member within the limited range of movement of said nut member provided by said encaging means, said at least one protrusion of said nut member being in contact with said encaging means.

15 15. An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said base portion of said nut member has four protrusions extending from said lower surface thereof.

16. An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said at least one protrusion is provided at a corner of said lower surface where at least one of said sidewalls meets at said lower surface.

20 17. An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said at least one protrusion extends at least a portion of a distance between said aperture and a corner of said lower surface where at least one of said sidewalls meets at said lower surface.

18. An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said at least one protrusion is configured to allow for a reduced amount of bearing surface interface between said nut member and said encaging means.

19. An assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said encaging means is configured to be welded to a workpiece such that an e-coat or ELPO bath can be applied to said encaging means and said workpiece, said at least one protrusion assisting in preventing said nut member from being stuck to said encaging means after said e-coat or ELPO bath being applied thereto.

20. A combination nut member, cage member and fastener configured for interaction with a workpiece having first and second surfaces and an aperture provided therethrough, said combination comprising:

a nut member having a base portion having an upper surface, a lower surface, and sidewalls which connect said upper surface to said lower surface, said base portion further having at least one protrusion extending from said lower surface thereof, said base portion having an aperture which extends therethrough, said aperture defining a threaded wall;

a cage member which is associated with said first surface of said workpiece, said cage member having an opening therethrough, said nut member being encaged within said cage member, said at least one protrusion of said nut member being embedded into said cage member; and

a fastener having an enlarged head portion and an elongated threaded shank extending therefrom, said enlarged head portion being associated with said second surface of said workpiece, said elongated shank extending through said aperture of said workpiece and being

in threaded engagement with said threaded wall of said nut member.

21. A combination as defined in claim 20, wherein said cage member is welded to said first surface of said workpiece.

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22. A combination as defined in claim 20, wherein said lower surface of said base portion of said nut member is substantially positioned against said cage member.

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23. A combination as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one protrusion is provided at a corner of said lower surface where at least one of said sidewalls meets at said lower surface.

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24. A combination as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one protrusion extends at least a portion of a distance between said aperture and a corner of said lower surface where at least one of said sidewalls meets at said lower surface.